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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Oliver  
4 Jerome Brewster, who passed away on January 2, 2010; and

5           WHEREAS, Oliver Brewster was born on October 7, 1936, in  
6 St. Louis, Missouri; his parents were Alverta and the Reverend  
7 Raymond Brewster; he accepted Christ and was baptized at an  
8 early age; and

9           WHEREAS, Oliver Brewster attended Vashaun High School in  
10 St. Louis, Missouri and graduated from Crane High School in  
11 Chicago; after high school, he enlisted in the United States  
12 Navy, where he enjoyed boxing and served in the Korean War  
13 during his 4-year tour; after leaving the Navy, he returned to  
14 Chicago, where he met his future wife, Charlotte Bowman; and

15           WHEREAS, Oliver Brewster worked at the United States Post  
16 Office until he embarked on his dream of owning his own  
17 business; in 1973, he opened Brewster's Barber Shop and Beauty  
18 Salon on Chicago's South Side, a business he owned and operated  
19 for 30 years; and

20           WHEREAS, Oliver Brewster was an active member of his  
21 community; he was the founder of the On With Life (O.W.L.)

1 community organization; he participated in numerous programs  
2 as a member of The Lutheran Church of Christ the King; he also  
3 served as the President and National Director of the Black  
4 Youth Organization and as Vice-President of the Association of  
5 Black Lutheran Churchmen; and

6 WHEREAS, Oliver Brewster was involved in local and State  
7 politics for over 40 years; over the years, he has gathered  
8 people for marches, rallies, voter registration drives,  
9 petition drives, and numerous elections; he worked alongside  
10 many Chicago elected officials and spearheaded the campaigns of  
11 former Chicago Mayor Harold Washington, former Senator Howard  
12 Brookins, Sr., Niles Sherman, Ray Adkins, and Illinois State  
13 Representative Constance A. Howard; he also worked  
14 side-by-side with Representative Howard as her District  
15 Director/Coordinator for over 20 years; and

16 WHEREAS, Oliver Brewster enjoyed boxing, traveling,  
17 listening to jazz, cooking, and politics; and

18 WHEREAS, Oliver Brewster was preceded in death by his  
19 father; his brothers, Earl and Harold; and his aunts, Geneva  
20 Woods, Catherine Brewster-Coleman, Alma Brewster, and Ruby  
21 Clark; and

22 WHEREAS, Oliver Brewster is survived by his loving wife of

1 48 years, Charlotte; his daughters, Yolanda and Anika; his  
2 grandchildren, Yoronda, Charonda, Jeromee, Joi, and Jordai;  
3 his mother, Alverta McField; his brother, Quinton McField  
4 (Denise); his sisters, Alversa Milan (Jesse) and Marilyn  
5 Breashears (Ollie); and his many nieces, nephews, cousins,  
6 friends, and colleagues; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
8 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
9 mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of Oliver  
10 Jerome Brewster; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to the family of Oliver Brewster as an expression of  
13 our sympathy.